



52 Mountain View Drive

1949

Lustron

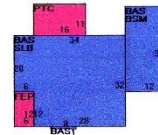
1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 115

1949 Lustron current owner: Angeline Richter

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1949 current owner: Angeline Richter

Sketch



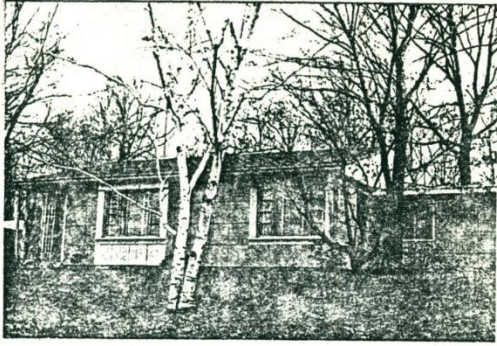
Lustron houses are prefabricated enameled steelhouses developed in the post-World War II era United States in response to the shortage of homes for returning GIs. They were made from 194-1950. A house contained over 3,300 parts, pieced together over an average of 350 hours, or 2 weeks. The skeleton was made of steel frames, welded into walls and roof trusses. The roof and walls were made of porcelain-finish steel panels, compressed with plastic seal for air-tight weather resistance. By 1949, Lustron Corporation had 234 dealers in 35 states. Then the dream hit reality. Unable to contain costs, the company made less than 3,000 homes, out of the 45,000 promised.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
 HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION		DESCRIPTION	
1. BUILDING NAME (Common) #115 (Historic)			
2. TOWN/CITY Berlin	VILLAGE Kensington	COUNTY Hartford	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 52 Mountain View Drive 14-4/69/106			
4. OWNER(S) Richter, Angeline K. " " Kensington 06037 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present) Residence (Historic)			
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN			
7. STYLE OF BUILDING International Style		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1948	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Porcelainized Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type:			
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Prefabricated Steel			
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) (Material) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Steel tiles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street			
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 1		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 25' 20'	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated			
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved WHEN? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN			
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES <input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden			
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density			
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS In modern tract housing development.			

COMPILED BY	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE	
	HRC	11/84	
	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
	NE	H6	
NAME	DATE		
	Historic Resource Consultants	12/84	
	The Colt Armory		
ADDRESS	55 Van Dyke Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06108		
20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:			
DESCRIPTION (Continued)	17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)		
	<p>This house has a porcelainized-steel facade broken by two large picture windows. The left picture window projects slightly in a yellow porcelainized steel housing; the bulk of the house is finished in blue enamel. Windows are generally fitted with metal casement sash and have molded steel caps. The right elevation has a small original flat-roofed bay extension in porcelainized steel. To the left is an original glassed-in porch and a blue stucco garage linked to the house by a wooden pergola. The interior of the house is virtually unaltered, and features steel wall and ceiling panels and built-in steel cabinets, closets, and storage space.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	18 ARCHITECT		BUILDER
	19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE		
SOURCES	<p>This house is significant as an excellent and well-preserved example of a Lustron pre-fabricated steel house. The Lustron Corporation was founded in 1946 by Carl Strandlund, who conceived the idea while working as a lobbyist for a steel company. With financing from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Strandlund hoped to produce inexpensive, easily erected dwellings for the post-war housing boom. Built on an assembly line, Lustron houses sold for about \$11,000 in 1948. Unfortunately, Lustron's production line was just gearing up when the housing boom ended, and the company went bankrupt in 1951 after producing about 3,000 houses.</p> <p>Architecturally, Lustron houses reflect the simple lines and rectilinear massing of the International Style. Its use of porcelainized-steel cladding was not unique; the material is often seen in 1940s and 1950s gas stations. This house was purchased in 1948 by George and Angeline Richter.</p>		
	<p>Berlin Land Records 95:264 (1948) <u>Fine Homebuilding Magazine</u>, August/September 1984 Interview with owner</p>		